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Message Text

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51
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ISO-00 /011 R

66604
DRAFTED BY S/S-O:PKJOHNSON:WLT
2/13/75
APPROVED BY S/S-O:PKJOHNSON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S/S, NSC/E
---------- 015519
O 131553Z FEB 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033067

TOSEC 174

FOR SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ATHENS FROM ANKARA
12 FEB 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1243

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
SUBJ: AEGEAN DISPUTE: TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE

REF: A. ANKARA 1131; B. ATHENS 1059

1. MFA HAS PROVIDED US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WITH TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE TO GREECE DATED FEBRUARY 6, RESPONDING TO GREEK PROPOSAL FOR TAKING AEGEAN DISPUTES TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (REFTELS).

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:
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BEGIN QUOTE

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS IT COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE AND WITH REFERENCE TO THEIR NOTE OF JANUARY 27, 1975, NO. 6242.4/53/AS.293, REGARDING THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN SEA, HAS THE HONOUR TO SET FORTH THE VIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HEREBELOW:

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WELCOMES THE SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION OF GREECE REGARDING ITS PROPOSAL TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

IT IS THE CONSIDERED VIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THAT VARIOUS VITAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AEGEAN SEA ARE STILL OUTSTANDING BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. AS TURKEY AND GREECE ARE COMPELLED TO BE FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE BY VIRTUE OF GEOGRAPHY AND MUTUAL INTERESTS, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

ANIMATED WITH THIS PSIRIT AND IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF THE AEGEAN SEA, WHEREIN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE CONFRONTED WITH ISSUES TO BE SETTLED YET, INTER ALIA THE BREDTH OF THE TERRITORIAL SEAS IN THE AEGEAN AND THE USE OF ITS AIRSPACE, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE GOVERNMENT FO GREECE SHALL AGREE WITH PRIORITY, TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY ON THE QUESTION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WITH A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

INDEED, TURKEY HAD PROPOSED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS THE INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WITH THE AIM OF SOLVING THE DIFFERENCES ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF PEACEFULLY, IN A JUST AND EQUITABLE MANNER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED REGRETFULLY THAT THESE TURKISH PROPOSALS WERE NOT MET BY GREECE AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE THUS PREVENTED. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS CONSTITUTE A BASIC METHOD FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FACT THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT YET TAKEN PLACE, THE ISSUES RELATING TO THE DISPUTES HAVE NEITHER BEEN FULLY IDENTIFIED NOR ELUCIDATED.

HOWEVER, IN PRINCIPLE, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FAVORABLY CONSIDERS THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO REFER THE DISPUTE OVER THE DELIMINATIONOF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF JOINTLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. TO THIS EFFECT AND TO

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ELABORATE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE MATTER SHALL BE REFERRED TO THE SAID COURT, TURKEY PROPOSES HIGH LEVEL TALKS TO BE INITIATED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE POLITICAL NATURE AND VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER NECESSITATES THAT THESE TALKS BE HELD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY OF REITERATING TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION END QUOTE. MACOMBER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, AEGEAN SEA, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS, TOSEC 174
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE033067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:PKJOHNSON:WLT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750052-1050
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750245/aaaaboge.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 1131, 75 ATHENS 1059
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AEGEAN DISPUTE: TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU, COJ
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006